

# KING COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2008

## Chapter Nine – Economic Development

### Substantive Policy Changes

| Non-technical Amended and New Policies in 2008 Comp Plan  | Executive Rationale for Change or Addition of Policy  | Staff Comment   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>I. Overview</b>  |   |   |
| ED-101 King County has a long-term commitment to sustainable economic development <u>on a countywide basis</u> . Sustainable economic development shall mean economic development that does not exceed the ability of the natural or built environments to remain healthy while sustaining growth over the long term.   | Recognizes that this policy applies equally throughout King County.   | This is a Countywide policy (   |
| ED-103 King County policies, programs, and strategies <u>shall recognize the importance of providing job opportunities for all residents and will place special emphasis on training low-income, low-skill residents for job opportunities with ((livable wages,)) benefits(,) and wage-progression and retention strategies.</u>   | Recognizes that this policy applies equally throughout King County and that there is a practical distinction between “livable wages” and “wage-progression”.  | This is a useful clarification and improvement of the previous policy. This is a Countywide policy.   |
| <b>II. Business Development – Creation, Retention, Expansion and Recruitment</b>  |   |   |
| ED-109 King County supports programs and strategies to help create, retain, and expand homegrown businesses in basic industries, particularly <del>((within the county's manufacturing and industrial areas))</del> <u>those industrial clusters offering the best opportunities for business growth and job creation as identified in the Regional Economic Strategy.</u>  | New Policy Initiative. Recognizes that King County is participating in a four-county economic development strategy to encourage economic growth.  | The literature suggests that strategies to expand regional industry clusters are effective to promote economic development. This is a Countywide policy but care would need to be taken if it were applied in the rural area. |
| ED-110 King County supports programs and strategies, in partnership with the federal, state, and local governments and the private sector, that provide technical and financial assistance to <del>((homegrown))</del> businesses including, but not limited to:<br>a. <del>((Mentoring, financial management training, and other technical assistance to disadvantaged businesses, particularly in the construction industry,))</del> <u>Financial, marketing, expansion, and general operations assistance for small businesses</u> to help them become competitive in the private sector;<br>b. <u>Incentives and/or other methods for small businesses to gain greater participation on county-funded public works, consulting, and goods and services contracts;</u><br>c. <del>((Pollution prevention and assessments of contamination to enable manufacturers to remediate</del> | This provides a policy basis to the County's support, financial and otherwise, for the Small Business Development Centers throughout the county.<br><br>This is consistent with the adopted Contracting Opportunities Program and King County Code. | This is a Countywide policy but care would need to be taken if it were applied in the rural area.<br><br>Consistent with past and current activities.   |

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| <p><del>contaminated property to continue or expand production;))</del> <u>Assessment and/or remediation of contaminated property (Brownfields) in order to continue or expand operations to help individual small businesses or jurisdictions impacted by Brownfields:</u></p> <p>d. <del>((Workforce recruitment, training and retention assistance.))</del> <u>Supporting small businesses to pursue historic building façade improvements or jurisdictions to pursue historic business district revitalization projects; and</u></p> <p>((b.)) e. Technological, efficiency, and managerial assessments to <del>((enable))</del> <u>help</u> manufacturers <del>((to))</del> reduce costs and use smaller footprints for existing or expanded production<del>((:))</del>.</p> | <p>This is consistent with economic development/land cleanup services provide by the Solid Waste Division.</p> <p>Consistent with existing program to encourage business investment in White Center, Skyway, and cities.</p> | <p>This is a legacy program of the Duwamish Coalition. This is a Countywide policy</p> <p>Makes Comprehensive Plan consistent with program. Appears reasonable.</p> <p>Technical amendment, need to strike a line through b.</p> |
| <p>ED-111 King County supports programs and strategies for the targeted recruitment of firms that will:</p> <p><del>((b.))</del>a. Export their goods or services and/or have the potential for high levels of growth and wages<del>((:))</del>, particularly those firms within the <u>industrial clusters identified by the Regional Economic Strategy; or</u></p> <p><del>((a.))</del>b. Support the county's basic industries by providing services that help keep existing firms globally competitive<del>((: or))</del>.</p>  | <p>Recognizes County participation in a regional economic strategy, with the Puget Sound Regional Council as the lead agency.</p>  | <p>This is a Countywide policy but care would need to be taken if it were applied in the rural area so as not to adversely effect rural character.</p>   |
| <p>ED-114 King County recognizes that adequate infrastructure is essential to support existing economic activity and to attract new industry and development. The county therefore supports programs and strategies to maintain existing infrastructure and construct new facilities (transportation, utilities, <del>((schools,))</del> information, communications)<del>((, including an adequate supply of housing,))</del> necessary to accommodate current and future economic demand</p>  | <p>Recognizes that the County does not have statutory responsibilities for schools or providing housing.</p>   | <p>This is a Countywide policy but care would need to be taken if it were applied in the rural area. as not to adversely effect rural character</p>  |
| <p><del>((U-315))</del> <del>((King County recognizes the importance of traditional economic activities that support a rural lifestyle. While it is not the intent of the county to develop the unincorporated rural areas for commercial</del></p>   | <p>Deletion of this policy recognizes the transmittal of the Rural Economic Strategies and that they are being implemented.</p>  | <p>Appears reasonable.</p>   |

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| activities, county policy, regulations and programs should support the preservation of traditional rural economic activities and lifestyles.))  |   |                     |
| <b>III. Workforce Development</b>   |   |                     |
| ED-115 King County supports ((assuming a leadership role in workforce development as a member of)) the King County Workforce Development Council, established by the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, composed of high-level representatives from business, local government, labor, education and training institutions, advocacy organizations, and human service providers. The purpose of the council is to coordinate and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs to meet the needs of the workforce system's two customers— <u>workers and employers</u> ((and workers)).   | Recognizes that the Workforce Development Council is the lead agency in providing services that coordinate and improve employment training, literacy and vocational rehabilitation programs to serve workers and employers. | Appears reasonable. |
| ED-116 King County supports programs and strategies to provide employment and training opportunities to low-income and low-skilled residents including:<br>a. Programs that facilitate employer involvement in hiring ((low-income and low-skilled)) workers with limited experience and skills, and provide successful strategies for skills training, job placement, and retention for workers;<br>b. Training for and placement ((of low-income and low-skilled workers)) in jobs in growing industries that pay an ((entry-level)) average wage rate of ((at least \$8.00)) <u>\$13.66</u> per hour ((in year 2000 dollars)), provide benefits, and offer workers wage progression opportunities((- This hourly figure is to be evaluated during each update of this plan and adjusted to reflect changes in cost of living or other similar indices and consideration of market conditions));<br>c. <u>Programs that reduce recidivism by helping residents involved in the criminal justice system gain access to employment and training services in lieu of jail sentencing;</u><br>((e-))d. School-to-work programs and effective alternatives for out-of-school | Updated to reflect inflation.<br><br>Reflects the current program emphasis of the King County Jobs Initiative operated by the Department of Community and Human Services.   | Appears reasonable. |

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| <p>youth; and<br/> <del>((d.)) e. ((Services to enable unemployed, underemployed and dislocated workers to obtain employment at a wage that enables them to be self-sufficient.))</del><br/> <u>Summer youth employment programs for at-risk youth.</u></p>  | <p>Reflects ongoing programs in the Department of Community and Human Services.</p>          |   |
| <p>ED-119 King County supports programs and strategies to provide employment and training opportunities <u>to low-income and low-skilled residents</u> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Programs that facilitate employer involvement in hiring <del>((low-income and low-skilled))</del> workers with limited experience and skills, and provide successful strategies for skills training, job placement, and retention for workers;</li> <li>b. <del>Training for and placement ((of low-income and low-skilled workers)) in jobs in growing industries that pay an ((entry-level)) average wage rate of ((at least \$8.00)) \$13.66 per hour ((in year 2000 dollars))), provide benefits, and offer workers wage progression opportunities((. This hourly figure is to be evaluated during each update of this plan and adjusted to reflect changes in cost-of-living or other similar indices and consideration of market conditions))</del>;</li> <li>c. <del>Programs that reduce recidivism by helping residents involved in the criminal justice system gain access to employment and training services in lieu of jail sentencing;</del></li> <li><del>((c.))d. School-to-work programs and effective alternatives for out-of-school youth; and</del></li> <li><del>((d.)) e. ((Services to enable unemployed, underemployed and dislocated workers to obtain employment at a wage that enables them to be self-sufficient.)) Summer youth employment programs for at-risk youth.</del></li> </ul> | <p>For the most part, deleted portions were redundant with other policies</p>                |   |
| <p><u>ED-119a King County supports programs, strategies, and partnerships to promote the development and growth of green jobs. Green jobs—particularly in the Clean Technology cluster but also across all industry clusters—are jobs that are linked</u></p>  | <p>New policy direction related to global climate change and regional economic strategy.</p> | <p>This is a Countywide policy but care would need to be taken if it were applied in the rural area as not to adversely effect rural character.</p> |

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| <u>to the preservation and sustainability of the natural environment.</u>   |  |                           |
| <b>IV. Regional Plans</b>   | <b>No changes</b>  | <b>Appears reasonable</b> |
| <b>V The Rural Economy</b>  |  |                           |
| <p>ED-125 ((King County recognizes and supports home occupations, home industries, and other small businesses that provide services to rural residents and are part of traditional rural economic activities and lifestyles found in King County's Rural Area. The county shall review its regulations and programs to preserve this component of the County's Rural Area. The Executive shall provide this analysis of the regulations and programs, along with any recommended code changes, for review by the King County Council by December 31, 2005.))</p> <p><u>King County is committed to a sustainable and vibrant rural economy. County policy, regulations, and programs should support the preservation and enhancement of traditional rural economic activities and lifestyles, while supporting evolving compatible commercial uses and job opportunities.</u></p> | These changes recognize the transmittal of the Rural Economic Strategies and that the strategies are being implemented.  | Appears reasonable.       |
| <p>ED-126 <u>All economic development within the Rural Area and on resource lands shall be compatible with the surrounding rural character, be of an appropriate size and scale, and protect the natural environment</u></p>  | Addition of this policy recognizes the transmittal of the Rural Economic Strategies and that they are being implemented. | Appears reasonable.       |
| <p>ED-127 ((King County shall develop and implement a rural economic development strategy, which shall be consistent with the character and service levels of the Rural Area. The strategy shall be developed in coordination with the Rural Forest Commission, the Agricultural Commission, interested rural citizens, and other stakeholders. This strategy shall be transmitted to the King County Council by December 31, 2005, and shall include the following components:</p> <p>a. Identification of rural economic development policies, goals, objectives and implementation tools necessary to bring income to the businesses and residents of rural King County within the strictures of GMA;</p> <p>b. Establishment of an action plan that will identify roles, expected outcomes, milestones and schedules;</p>   | Changes to this policy recognize the transmittal of the Rural Economic Strategies and that they are being implemented.   | Appears reasonable.       |

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| <p><del>e. Assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities faced by the King County rural economy;</del></p> <p><del>d. Inventory of the existing supply of commercial and industrial lands in the Rural Area and an assessment of its sufficiency over the 20-year planning horizon;</del></p> <p><del>e. Identification of the types of businesses that should be encouraged and supported in rural areas;</del></p> <p><del>f. Identification of current obstacles to overall rural economic development as well as impediments to the location or expansion of favored industries that are consistent with rural character;</del></p> <p><del>g. Identification of the implementation tools capable of supporting and encouraging the retention, expansion and relocation of favored businesses; and</del></p> <p><del>h. Consistency with and in support of the APD and the FPD.))</del></p> <p><u>King County shall use the Rural Economic Strategies to guide future rural economic development and will modify and add strategies as needed to reflect the evolving nature of the rural economy.</u></p> <p><u>a. King County supports programs and strategies to help preserve and enhance rural businesses focusing on the rural economic clusters of agriculture (including livestock), forestry, home-based business, small-scale tourism, and other compatible rural businesses.</u></p> <p><u>b. King County should continue to review existing and proposed regulations to ensure they are relevant and effective in accommodating the differing needs and emerging trends of rural economic activity.</u></p> <p><u>c. ((Within the unincorporated area,)) King County should partner with rural businesses, unincorporated area councils, and others to develop and implement policies, programs, and strategies ((that promote local economic development)) to preserve and enhance the traditional rural economic base.</u></p> <p><u>d. King County should partner with other</u></p> |  |               |

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| <u>Puget Sound counties and businesses to analyze the need and possible sites for regional agricultural (including beef and poultry) and forest product processing facilities that may require regional demand to make them economically feasible. The county should also explore options and incentives to encourage entrepreneurs to invest in mobile forest and food production processing facilities that can serve the region.</u> |  |               |